I. Understanding Gossip
   A. Gossip is control
      1. Information is power
         - negatively - the person you share gossip with may think that you might share some of your deep dark secrets...
         - positively - if you have information on someone else then you become a valued person of influence.
      2. Proverbs 11:13
         - God’s desire is that we keep the confidence of others and thereby exalting their needs over our own.
   B. Gossip is simply promoting lying
      1. It is an attempt to exalt ourself
      2. It shades the truth
         - sharing only one side of the story
      3. It casts us in a more favorable light
      4. Proverbs 17:4
   C. Gossip is a form of being judgmental
      1. Most of the time the information shared is negative
      2. Most of the time the intent of gossip is to cause others to form certain opinions of others.
      3. Proverbs 16:28
   D. Gossip stirs up trouble
      1. By not dealing with things “head-on”
      2. By not addressing the issue with the person in question
      3. Proverbs 26:20
         - it’s amazing how quickly things become peaceful when the gossip stops.

II. Christianizing Gossip
   A. Through “prayer” requests
      1. The gossip is couched in the prayer request when in reality we are reporting.
      2. When we speak for others rather than having them speak for themselves.
      3. Matthew 6:6 - pray in secret
   B. Seeking some advice

III. Saying no to gossip
   A. Stay away from gossipers and there is peace
      1. Proverbs 20:19
      2. Romans 1:29 - It’s mentioned among some really bad things.
   B. Refuse Gossip and there is blessing - Psalm 15:1-5
      1. You may worship in His Sanctuary
      2. You may enter into His presence
      3. You will stand forever

Bring Your Tongue to Christ today.